

1581

Year **1581** (**MDLXXXI**) was a common year starting on Sunday (link will display the full calendar) of the Julian calendar, and a common year starting on Thursday (link will display full calendar) of the Proleptic Gregorian calendar.

|                   |
|-------------------|
| <b>Contents</b>   |
| <b>Events</b>     |
| January–June      |
| July–December     |
| Date unknown      |
| <b>Births</b>     |
| <b>Deaths</b>     |
| <b>References</b> |

Events

January–June

- March 18 – The Parliament of England's *Act against Reconciliation to Rome* imposes heavy fines, for practising Roman Catholicism.<sup>[1]</sup>
- March 25 – Iberian Union: Philip II of Spain is crowned Philip I of Portugal.
- April 4 – Following his circumnavigation of the world, Francis Drake is knighted by Elizabeth I of England.<sup>[2]</sup>

July–December

- July 14 – English Jesuit Edmund Campion is arrested.
- July 26
  - The Northern Netherlands (Union of Utrecht) proclaim their independence from Spain in the Act of Abjuration, abjuring loyalty to Philip II of Spain as their sovereign, and appointing Francois, Duke of Anjou, as the new sovereign of the Netherlands; public practice of Roman Catholicism is forbidden.

|                    |                                                       |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Millennium:</b> | 2nd millennium                                        |
| <b>Centuries:</b>  | 15th century · <b>16th century</b> · 17th century     |
| <b>Decades:</b>    | 1560s · 1570s · <b>1580s</b> · 1590s · 1600s          |
| <b>Years:</b>      | 1578 · 1579 · 1580 · <b>1581</b> · 1582 · 1583 · 1584 |

1581 in various calendars

|                        |                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Gregorian calendar     | 1581 <div><i>MDLXXXI</i></div>                                                                                                   |
| Ab urbe condita        | 2334                                                                                                                             |
| Armenian calendar      | 1030 <div>ԹՎ ՌԼ</div>                                                                                                            |
| Assyrian calendar      | 6331                                                                                                                             |
| Balinese saka calendar | 1502–1503                                                                                                                        |
| Bengali calendar       | 988                                                                                                                              |
| Berber calendar        | 2531                                                                                                                             |
| English Regnal year    | 23 Eliz. 1 – 24 Eliz. 1                                                                                                          |
| Buddhist calendar      | 2125                                                                                                                             |
| Burmese calendar       | 943                                                                                                                              |
| Byzantine calendar     | 7089–7090                                                                                                                        |
| Chinese calendar       | 庚辰年 <div>(Metal Dragon)</div> 4277 or 4217 <div>—<span> </span>to<span> </span>—</div> 辛巳年 <div>(Metal Snake)</div> 4278 or 4218 |
| Coptic calendar        | 1297–1298                                                                                                                        |

- Capture of Breda: Spanish troops take Breda by surprise.
- A meteorite makes landfall in Thuringia, Holy Roman Empire.<sup>[3]</sup>
- August 28 – The army of King Stephen Báthory of Poland begins its siege of the Russian garrison of Pskov
- Summer (*probable*) – Yermak begins the Russian conquest of the Khanate of Sibir, with a band of 1,636 men.
- September – A mercenary army of Sweden, under Pontus De la Gardie, captures Narva from Russia.
- October 15 – *Ballet Comique de la Reine*, the first narrative ballet, devised by Louise of Lorraine, wife of Henry III of France, and choreographed by Balthasar de Beaujoyeulx, opens in its first performance at the court of Catherine de' Medici, in the Louvre Palace in Paris, as part of the wedding celebrations for Marguerite of Lorraine.
- November 4 – Jean de la Cassière is restored as Grandmaster of the Knights Hospitaller, by Pope Gregory XIII.
- December 1 – Execution in England of the Jesuit priest Edmund Campion for treason.<sup>[4]</sup>

## Date unknown

- The Knights Hospitaller depose Jean de la Cassière as Grandmaster, and appoint Mathurin Romegas.
- The Ming Dynasty Chancellor of China, Chief Grand Secretary Zhang Juzheng, imposes the Single Whip Reform, by which taxes are assessed on properties recorded in the land census, and paid in silver, as the accepted medium of exchange.
- Oda Nobunaga invades Iga Province.
- The Trier witch trials begin.
- John Dee practices angel magic with Barnabas Saul, but with no success.
- Guru Arjan Dev becomes the fifth Guru of Sikhs, succeeding his father Guru Ram Das.
- The last Bishop of Meissen, John IX of Haugwitz, resigns his office in the wake of the Reformation.

## Births

- January 4 – James Ussher, Anglo-Irish priest and scholar (d. 1656)
- January 6 – Countess Palatine Dorothea of Simmern, Princess consort of Anhalt-Dessau (d. 1631)
- January 30 – Christian, Margrave of Brandenburg-Bayreuth (1603–1655) (d. 1655)
- February 17 – Fausto Poli, Italian Catholic prelate and cardinal (d. 1653)

|                        |                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Discordian calendar    | 2747                                                                                                              |
| Ethiopian calendar     | 1573–1574                                                                                                         |
| Hebrew calendar        | 5341–5342                                                                                                         |
| Hindu calendars        |                                                                                                                   |
| - <i>Vikram Samvat</i> | 1637–1638                                                                                                         |
| - <i>Shaka Samvat</i>  | 1502–1503                                                                                                         |
| - <i>Kali Yuga</i>     | 4681–4682                                                                                                         |
| Holocene calendar      | 11581                                                                                                             |
| Igbo calendar          | 581–582                                                                                                           |
| Iranian calendar       | 959–960                                                                                                           |
| Islamic calendar       | 988–989                                                                                                           |
| Japanese calendar      | Tenshō 9<br>(天正9年)                                                                                                |
| Javanese calendar      | 1500–1501                                                                                                         |
| Julian calendar        | 1581<br><i>MDLXXXI</i>                                                                                            |
| Korean calendar        | 3914                                                                                                              |
| Minguo calendar        | 331 before ROC<br>民前331年                                                                                          |
| Nanakshahi calendar    | 113                                                                                                               |
| Thai solar calendar    | 2123–2124                                                                                                         |
| Tibetan calendar       | 阳金龙年<br>(male Iron-Dragon)<br>1707 or 1326 or 554<br>— to —<br>阴金蛇年<br>(female Iron-Snake)<br>1708 or 1327 or 555 |

- March 16 – Pieter Corneliszoon Hooft, Dutch historian (d. 1647)
- April 24 – Vincent de Paul, French Roman Catholic priest who dedicated himself to serving the poor (d. 1660)
- May 4 – Arnold Möller, German calligrapher (d. 1655)
- May 21 – Robert More, English politician (d. 1626)
- May 22 – Archduchess Gregoria Maximiliana of Austria, Austrian archduchess (d. 1597)
- June 21 – Edward Barrett, 1st Lord Barrett of Newburgh, English politician (d. 1645)
- June 27 – Louis Günther I, Count of Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt (1630–1646) (d. 1646)
- July 18 – Pier Luigi Carafa, Italian Catholic cardinal (d. 1655)
- July 20 – Isidoro Bianchi, Italian painter (d. 1662)
- July 25 – Brian Twyne, English archivist (d. 1644)
- August 5 – Hedwig of Denmark, Danish princess (d. 1641)
- August 15 – Jeremias Drexel, Jesuit writer of devotional literature and a professor of the humanities and rhetoric (d. 1638)
- September 21 – Simon Archer, English politician (d. 1662)
- September 27 – Juan Damián López de Haro, Spanish Catholic bishop of Puerto Rico (d. 1648)
- October 9 – Claude Gaspard Bachet de Méziriac, French mathematician (d. 1638)
- October 21 – Domenico Zampieri, Italian painter (d. 1641)
- November 1 – William Hockmere, English politician (d. 1626)
- November 11 – Edward Popham, English politician (d. 1641)
- November 18 – Carlo I Cybo-Malaspina, marquise of Massa (d. 1662)
- November 26 – Frederick, Duke of Schleswig-Holstein-Sønderburg-Norburg (d. 1658)
- December 17 – Walter Davison, English poet (d. 1600)
- December 26 – Philip III, Landgrave of Hesse-Butzbach (1609–1643) (d. 1643)
- December 27 – Jean Chalette, French painter (d. 1643)
- *date unknown*



July 26–27: Capture of Breda



July 26: Act of Abjuration



Countess Palatine Dorothea of Simmern

- Gasparo Aselli, Italian physician (d. 1626)
- Jeremias Drexel, German Jesuit writer of devotional literature
- Edmund Gunter, English mathematician (d. 1626)
- Jean du Vergier de Hauranne, French monk who introduced Jansenism into France (d. 1643)
- Charles Malapert, Belgian Jesuit writer (d. 1630)
- Łukasz Opaliński (1581–1654), Polish nobleman (d. 1654)
- Thomas Overbury, English poet and essayist (d. 1613)
- Johannes Rudbeckius, bishop at Västerås (d. 1646)
- Choghtu Khong Tayiji, ruler of the Khalkha Mongols (d. 1637)
- *probable*
- Juan Ruiz de Alarcón, Mexican dramatist (d. 1639)

- Sisto Badalocchio, Italian painter and engraver (d. 1647)

## Deaths

---

- January 22 – Joos de Damhouder, Flemish jurist (b. 1507)
- February 15 – Francisco Foreiro, Portuguese Dominican theologian and biblist (b. 1523)
- March 17 – Johann Marbach, German theologian (b. 1521)
- March 19 – Francis I, Duke of Saxe-Lauenburg (b. 1510)
- April 3 – Herbert Duifhuis, Dutch minister (b. 1531)
- April 25 – Okabe Motonobu, Japanese warrior
- May 31 – Jan Kostka, Polish noble (b. 1529)
- June 2 – James Douglas, 4th Earl of Morton, regent of Scotland (b. 1525)
- July 20 – Odet de Turnèbe, French dramatist (b. 1552)
- July 11 – Peder Skram, Danish senator and naval officer (b. 1500)
- July 12 – Johannes Gigas, German theologian (b. 1514)
- July 22 – Richard Cox, English bishop (b. 1500)
- August 17 – Duchess Sabine of Württemberg, by marriage Landgravine of Hesse-Kassel (b. 1549)
- August 20 – Katharina of Hanau, Countess of Wied, German noblewoman (b. 1525)
- August – King Mayadunne of Sitawaka (b. 1501)
- September 1 – Guru Ram Das, fourth Sikh Guru (b. 1534)
- September 16 – Peter Niers, notorious German bandit (date of birth unknown)
- September 28 – Achilles Statius, Portuguese humanist (b. 1524)
- September 29 – Andreas Musculus, German theologian (b. 1514)
- September 30 – Hubert Languet, French diplomat and reformer (b. 1518)
- October 4 – Henry Wriothesley, 2nd Earl of Southampton, English earl (b. 1545)
- October 7 – Honoré I, Lord of Monaco (b. 1522)
- October 9 – Saint Louis Bertrand, Spanish missionary to Latin America, patron saint of Colombia (b. 1526)
- October 10 – King Bayinnaung of Burma (b. 1516)
- October 23 – Michael Neander, German mathematician and astronomer (b. 1529)
- November 4 – Mathurin Romegas, French rival Grandmaster of the Knights Hospitaller (b. c. 1525)
- November 7 – Richard Davies, Welsh bishop and scholar (b. c. 1505)
- November 19 – Tsarevich Ivan Ivanovich of Russia (b. 1554)
- December 1
  - Martyrs and executed of Tyburn
    - Alexander Briant, English Jesuit priest and saint (b. 1556)
    - Edmund Campion, English Jesuit priest and saint (b. 1540)
    - Ralph Sherwin, English Roman Catholic priest and saint (b. 1550)



Archduchess  
Gregoria  
Maximiliana of  
Austria



Princess Hedwig  
of Denmark

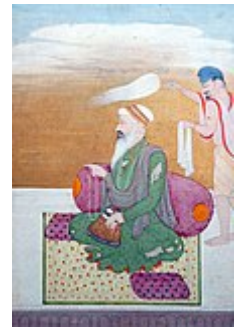


Thomas  
Overbury



James Douglas

- December 11 – Maria of Austria, Duchess of Jülich-Cleves-Berg, daughter of Emperor Ferdinand I (b. 1531)
- December 21 – Jean de la Cassière, French-born Maltese 51st Grandmaster of the Knights Hospitaller (b. 1502)
- *date unknown*
  - Christopher Báthory, prince of Transylvania (b. 1530)
  - Guillaume Postel, French linguist (b. 1510)
  - Agatha Streicher, German physician (b. 1520)
  - Nicholas Sanders, English Catholic propagandist (b. 1530)



Guru Ram Das

## References

1. Palmer, Alan; Veronica (1992). *The Chronology of British History*. London: Century Ltd. pp. 160–162. ISBN 0-7126-5616-2.
2. *Penguin Pocket On This Day*. Penguin Reference Library. 2006. ISBN 0-14-102715-0.
3. "Catalogue of aërolites and Bolides, from A.D. 2 to A.D. 1860" (<http://www.meteoritehistory.info/UKIRELAND/CAT2.HTM>). Meteoritehistory.info. Retrieved March 26, 2012.
4. Williams, Hywel (2005). *Cassell's Chronology of World History* (<https://archive.org/details/cassellschronolo0000will>). London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson. pp. 230–233 (<https://archive.org/details/cassellschronolo0000will/page/230>). ISBN 0-304-35730-8.



Saint Louis  
Bertrand



King Bayinnaung



Saints Alexander Briant and Edmund Campion died on December 1, 1581

Retrieved from "<https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=1581&oldid=966998040>"

This page was last edited on 10 July 2020, at 14:16 (UTC).

Text is available under the [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License](#); additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#). Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the [Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.](#), a non-profit organization.